

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE

Date of meeting

24 February 2021

SUBJECT

Item 5: GWE BUDGET 2020/21 - 3RD QUARTER REVIEW

DECISION

To accept the 3rd Quarter Review of GwE's budget for the 2020/21 financial year.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Joint Committee members were updated on the latest financial situation of GwE's budget for the 2020/21 financial year. An update was provided on the net underspend, however it was noted that 2021/22 could prove to be financially challenging due to the uncertainty of specific grants. It was therefore proposed and agreed to hypothecate the underspend fund for the time being, before considering the possible financial challenges of 2021/22.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST OR ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

Statutory Officers have been consulted for their opinions, which have been included in the report.

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



Date of meeting

24 February 2021

SUBJECT

Item 6: GWE BUDGET 2021/22

DECISION

- a) To adopt the baseline budget for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1.
 - b) Ask the Managing Director, in consultation with the Management Board, to submit a paper reviewing GwE's work model in the autumn.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

A formal decision is required from the Joint Committee to adopt a balanced budget for 2021/22. It was noted that the impact of inflation had been estimated and included in the baseline budget, and that the Authorities' financial contributions had been amended as per usual.

The issue of GwE's work model was raised in light of the pandemic, as were questions about continuing to work within the offices and buildings. In light of this, it was agreed that GwE's work model would need to be reviewed.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST OR ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN BEFORE MAKING THE DECISION

Statutory Officers were consulted for their opinions, which have been included in the report.

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



Date of meeting

24 February 2021

SUBJECT

Item 7: ESTYN THEMATIC REVIEW

DECISION

Joint Committee to note and accept the content of the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Comments were sought from members on the report, which includes findings from the thematic report on local authority and regional consortia approaches to supporting learning and vulnerable learners during the COVID-19 pandemic. The review was conducted in response to a request from the Education Minister.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST OR ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO THE MAKING THE DECISION

Statutory Officers were consulted for their opinions, which have been included in the report.

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



Date of meeting

24 February 2021

SUBJECT

**Item 8: GWE WORK PROGRAMME - AUTUMN TERM 2020
UPDATE AND REGIONAL PRIORITITES**

DECISION

The Joint Committee approves the content of the report, GwE's work programme and draft priorities for 2021-22 that will be continually reviewed in response to the Covid-19 situation and Government guidelines and regulations.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In response to COVID-19, GwE's work programme has changed to accommodate the changes facing schools and the education system. Local Authority and GwE staff have continued to re-purpose, and deliver effective services and support for their school communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a result of these changes, the draft priorities need to be reviewed on a regular basis.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST OR ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN BEFORE MAKING THE DECISION

Statutory Officers were consulted for their opinions, which have been included in the report.

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



Date of meeting

24 February 2021

SUBJECT

Item 9: SUPPORTING SCHOOLS

DECISION

The Joint Committee approves the content of the report on the main focus of GwE's work over the next two terms.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

GwE has re-purposed in order to continue to deliver services and support all our schools and their communities. Over the next two terms, GwE will primarily focus on supporting school leaders and staff to identify achievements, what works well, and what requires attention.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST OR ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN BEFORE MAKING THE DECISION

Statutory Officers have been consulted for their opinions, which have been included in the report.

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



Date of meeting

24 February 2021

SUBJECT

Item 10: THE REFORM JOURNEY AND PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

DECISION

The Joint Committee accepts and approves the content of the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Joint Committee members were presented with information regarding the professional offer for supporting the Curriculum for Wales.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST OR ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted for their opinions, which have been included in the report.

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



Date of meeting

24 February 2021

SUBJECT

Item 11: DISTANCE/REMOTE LEARNING AND PARENT/CARER ENGAGEMENT

DECISION

- a) The Joint Committee accepts and approves the report.
 - b) To support the strategy and support in place for schools in relation to parent/carer engagement and remote learning in North Wales.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

As a result of the disruption to education due to COVID-19, the Welsh Government has set clear expectations for schools (Guidance on learning in schools and settings: coronavirus updated 15 January 2021) in terms of the priorities for learning in schools and settings throughout the response to COVID-19 and as we move to recovery.

A report was shared with the Joint Committee noting the strategy and support available to schools in relation to remote learning.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST OR ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

Statutory Officers were consulted for their opinions, which have been included in the report.

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



Date of meeting

24 February 2021

SUBJECT

Item 12: ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAMMES FOR THE WELSH LANGUAGE

DECISION

The Joint-Committee approves the content of the report and plans to develop Accelerated Learning programmes for children being educated through the medium of Welsh (First Language).

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Concerns highlighted regarding the Welsh language and its use amongst pupils due to being absent from class during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This was highlighted in Estyn's thematic review '*Local authority and regional consortia support for schools and PRUs in response to COVID-19*', published in January 2021, highlights the concern that pupils are losing their Welsh, especially those from non-Welsh speaking homes.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST OR ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

Statutory Officers have been consulted for their opinions, which have been included in the report.

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



Date of meeting

24 February 2021

SUBJECT

Item 13: MEETING CALENDAR 2021/2022

DECISION

The Joint Committee approves the meeting calendar as noted in Appendix 1.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Joint Committee will meet as necessary to meet the needs of the Service in line with the timescale, on condition that a minimum of three meetings are held per year, with one of them being the annual general meeting.

A draft timetable was suggested for adoption.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST OR ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

Statutory Officers were consulted for their opinions, which have been included in the report.
